

the Student Insurgent presents

# the asshole issue.

an open forum for assholes!

Volume 26 edition 1

[illegible]



Dearest Reader,

You've been told to remain silent your whole life, sitting on the edge of your seat in every history lesson. Your entire youth was institutionalized and ruled by fear.

Fear of careers, religions and rejection, fear of wars, destruction and your asshole boss (fuck you, Randy). You've just about bitten your tongue off holding it back all these years.

You're fed up with what you see being done to your fellow humans, your planet and your creative potential. You can't be silent anymore... "Bullshit! (insert rant of your choice)" you shout out of nowhere. You pour out your rage to get the same bleak response time after time: "Why don't you shut up and stop being such an asshole about it. Nothing will ever change."

*Don't buy it.*

Like many asshole radicals, I subscribe to the slogan that your thoughts and words are powerful.

Now is your chance, so take a deep breath and let it all go. We are here to listen. We accept you for being an asshole. Maybe if other assholes weren't such assholes you wouldn't have to be such an asshole about it. Truth is we're all assholes. So here's your chance to unleash your inner asshole. (but not your outer asshole, we like to keep things respectable around here.)

Rage on,

Grace and the Student Insurgent folks



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NEEEE!!

2014 Validvictorians of  
Asshole-ism (AKA the  
INSURGENT CREW:  
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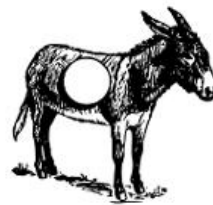
# UNIVERSITY OF ASSHOLES

## CLASS OF 2014



UNIVERSITY  
OF  
NIKE

OMNIA FUMABAMUS



*Yours truly,  
J. H. Kellogg*

Congratulations, you're  
an asshole!

Salutatorians of Assholery  
(AKA Contributors)

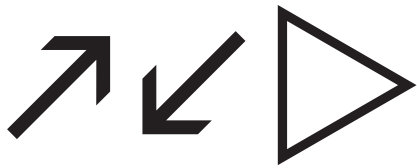
Sage Liskey, Augustine  
Beard, Kelsey Rankin, Sam  
Myers, Emma Ruddock,  
Emma Boville, Sam Rush,  
Tyler Torola, John Mon-  
roe, Rand Gould, Maureen  
Kane, Carlos Gil, Jesse  
Ceballos











# Abstractions

By S. A. M.

As a homosexual growing up in the evangelical, Anglo-Protestant Church, much of my life has been greatly affected by maps. From a very early age I learned the map of 'homosexual' drawn for me by my church, my parents, and my friends. Simultaneously, I was becoming slowly aware that my body was the actual 'territory' the map represented.

I began asking questions beyond my understanding; I can remember feeling profoundly afraid. At that point, I felt it was easier and safer to accept their explanations than to struggle against them.

Consequently, I became obsessed with fixing myself. My map defined me as promiscuous; I thus viewed myself as a sex addict. My map defined me as perverse; I interpreted my thoughts as evil. My map defined me as psychologically ill; I devoted myself to prayer for healing. Days, months, and years passed in this way. I was not changed and I attributed this to my own weakness.

**I had abstracted myself, losing sight of all my other qualities.**

My hands were the hands of a pervert rather than the hands of an artist and a writer. My eyes reflected my "illness" rather than my hope. I made myself a territory that matched the map I had been taught; I lost myself.

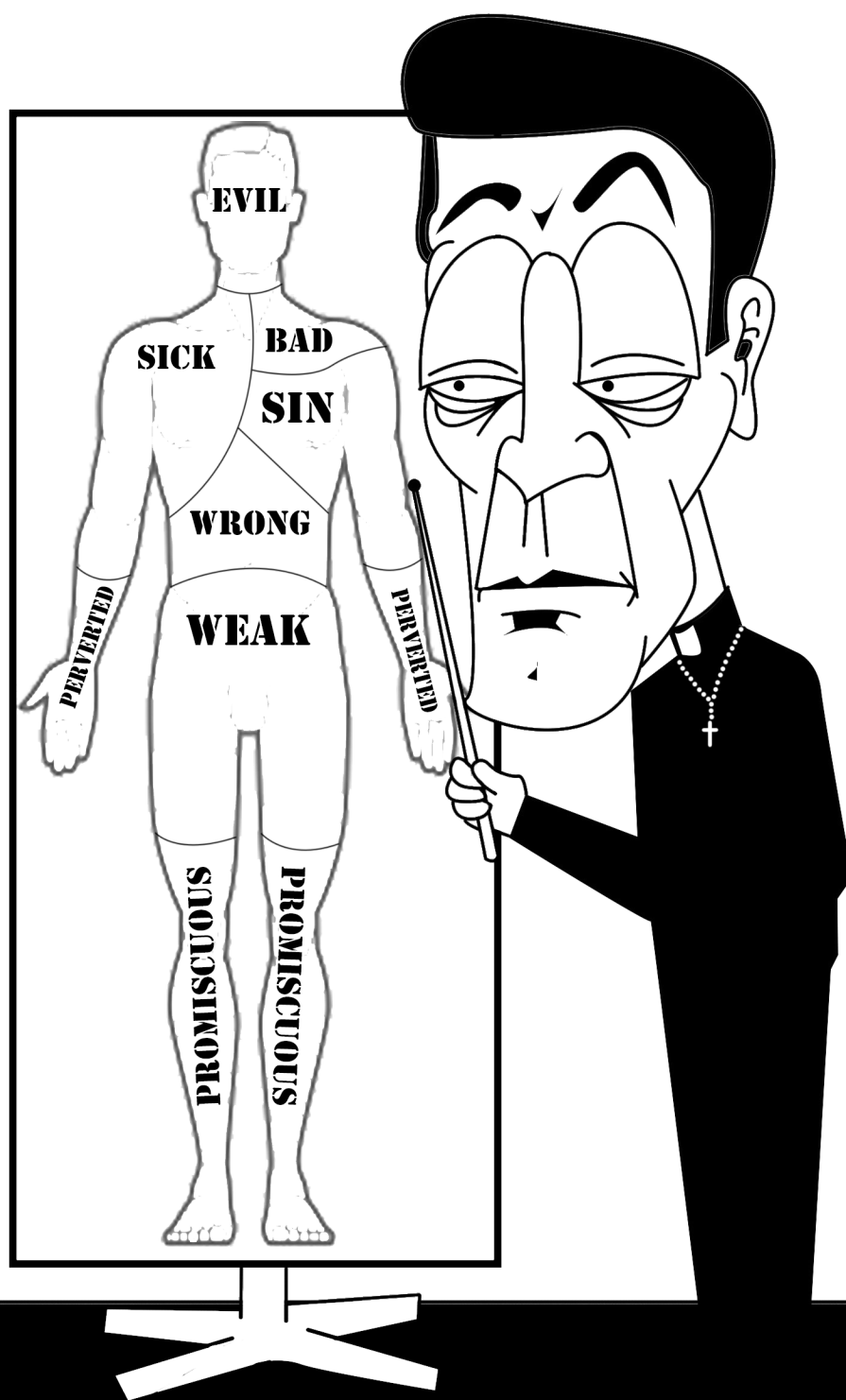
Eventually, I came to understand that maps and territories are seldom the same. My sexuality is part of me, but not the only part of me. Yes, I am gay, but I am also an optimist and an activist. I take really short showers and like to sleep with the window open. I like poetry and wordplay, baking things and swimming in rivers. Abstraction boils the complexity of a human into boxes and charters, and any sense of individuality disappears.

This understanding is the key to overcoming prejudice. Humans are all judged, abstracted, and boxed—and nearly all of them would rather they weren't. In understanding this process we see the problem with stereotyping and mapping. We see how we have been mapped, and we see how we have mapped others.

The task is to visit the territory before creating a map and to understand that the complexity of humans makes stereotyping useless. For almost a decade I allowed other people to tell me what I am. I worry how many others allow themselves to fall into boxes, and how much of themselves they will lose as a result.

*\*The terms used in this (ex. maps and territories) are taken from Hayakawa's Language in Thought and Action*





Art by Graham Dunn



# An Asshole to Myself

## Self-Care In Troubled Times

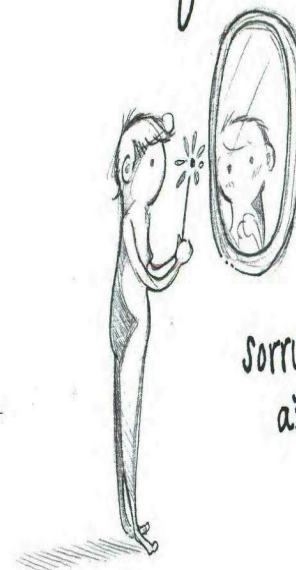
Art by Kelsey

**We live in the best and worst of times.** The hope and cynicism that whirls around like a tornado hits us all in great paradoxical gusts—and we reel between the worlds. Sometimes we have a mental health condition; sometimes bad things happen; sometimes trauma replays itself; and sometimes we are just assholes unto ourselves. We can escape our patterns though, because each moment there exists a capacity for change. After all, we are not stagnant creatures. Rather, we are creatures with the ability to learn, grow, transform, and defeat the inner asshole. Here are some tools to help.

### Habit Reformation

According to Charles Duhigg, a habit has three parts to it, the “habit cues,” the habit itself, and a reward for performing the habit (Gross. Habits). An example would be the smell of cookies (the habit cue) leading you to purchase and eat a cookie (the habit) which in turn satisfies your sweet tooth (the reward). Habit cues include anything from sights and sounds to smells and feelings. Once the habit has initiated, the brain actually automates the task and is free to think about other thoughts and actions. Everyone forms habits at a different rate, though three weeks has become a popularized number for people to strive for when attempting to embed a new habit (Layton). If one is performing the behavior regularly enough, it should stay permanently wired within their neural make-up after this amount of time (Delude). This is great for healthy habits, but also makes breaking an unhealthy one exceptionally difficult. Even if we do break a habit, being around old “habit cues” can quickly make the habit reform (Gross. Habits). This is especially challenging as the rewards for a bad behavior are often more immediate than the rewards for a good behavior. So how can you change your behaviors? If attempting to form a habit, repeat it often and at regular intervals, form one habit at a time, make the rewards of the habit more visible, and do the activity with a friend or pet (Layton). If you’re working on deforming a habit, recognize the “habit cues” and rewards for the habit, create a healthy habit that is triggered when you are around a bad habit cue, remove yourself from the habit cue(s), go on a vacation, or put the habit just a little further out of sight (Gross. Habits; Layton). To learn more about habits, read *The Power of Habit* by Charles Duhigg, or B.F. Skinner’s research work on “operant conditioning.”

Dear self,



sorry for being such an asshole sometimes.

### Mindfulness Meditation

Regular meditation improves mood and prevents depression (Paula). It is mostly effective by giving the brain a rest from reiterating negative thoughts and feelings. There is no limit to what form meditation can take, but the primary goal of many meditative practices is to focus on the present moment and not pass judgments on thoughts that may arise. One of the greatest things that the practice teaches is that humans have an option to think or not to think, and that it is okay and often healthy not to. An especially researched form of meditation is mindfulness meditation. Mindfulness meditation gradually “[increases] activity on the left side of the prefrontal cortex, which is associated with joyful and serene emotions” (Meditation). The practice has been shown to decrease anxiety, increase brain gray matter, and prevent age related memory loss (Lazar). Another benefit of practicing mindfulness is that it enhances our sensations. Removing judgments and focusing wholly on what is, sights become more beautiful, smells are more aromatic, feelings are more sensual, food is more tasteful, and music sounds more pleasant. It is a sort of high

that with practice, can be maintained indefinitely and transforms the whole world into a new oasis to experience.

Mindfulness is a skill that takes time to develop, but there are many ways of practicing it anywhere and any-time. These include things like maintaining awareness of the sensations of your body, of an action you are performing, of a conversation, or of thoughts that arise, but the most common way of practicing mindfulness is following your breath. Your breath is always with you, and so it is a reliable focal point. The more you practice being aware of your breath, the easier being aware of other sensations and aspects of your life will be.

Resources to learn mindfulness can be found at <<http://www.mindful.org/mindfulness-practice>>, in the writings of Thich Nhat Hanh, and the book *How To Train A Wild Elephant & Other Adventures in Mindfulness*. More helpful however is joining a meditation group or taking a class. Yoga and tai-chi are options that integrates stretching, movement, and meditation together. Another option is joining a sangha, or community, that practice under the non-dogmatic teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh and offer mindfulness meditation for free or donation prices. They practice a mixture of walking, sitting, guided, listening, speaking, and eating meditation. For help finding a sangha near you, or starting a sangha, go to <[www.thichnhatanhfoundation.org](http://www.thichnhatanhfoundation.org)>. There is also <[wkup.org](http://www.wkup.org)> for young-adult and youth-based sanghas. Yet another option is Vipassana Meditation. Vipassana is a free and silent form of meditation where beginners are generally required to complete a 10 day silent retreat before moving on in the discipline <[www.dhamma.org](http://www.dhamma.org)>. Whichever course you take, attending a retreat is very beneficial in creating a space where you fully focus on creating a habit of meditation. There are also online podcasts, smart phone applications, and communities of people encouraging each other to find mindful awareness.

## Communication Styles

Our style of communication can cause a lot of suffering or a lot of happiness. Everyone communicates differently depending on where they come from, and this creates a lot of conflict and confusion in the meaning of words and tonality. It is common for people in the Pacific Northwest to be considered passive aggressive and sensitive, and in turn outsiders are viewed as aggressive and insensitive in their humor and way of dealing with conflict. The most important thing to do when communicating with others is to not judge and not make assumptions. Ask questions and when possible use nonviolent communication (NVC) when dealing with conflicts. NVC was created by Marshall B. Rosenberg and teaches how to communicate with basic human needs in mind and in a way that avoids judging others. It opens people up to having discussions rather than making them defensive or feeling terrible. Manfred Max-Neef believes that all humans have the same nine basic needs (Nonviolent). Ask yourself if you or another person are sufficiently receiving all these needs. If not, then figure out how these needs may be better met. Reworded into simpler terms by Marshall Rosenberg, these needs include sustenance, safety, love, empathy, rest (recreation and play), community, creativity, autonomy (freedom), and meaning (purpose).

The basic technique of NVC is to observe what specifically is bothering you, state how that thing makes you feel (sad, angry, frustrated, etc.), state your needs being unmet due to that thing, and then make a request that will result in your needs being better fulfilled (Rosenberg). In this way it is possible to avoid judging a person while creating an open dialogue about the conflict at hand. These are just the basics—NVC has much more to it, including techniques for expressing empathy and gratitude externally and internally. To learn more about NVC, read the book, watch video tutorials, and attend workshops.

## Abundance Mentality

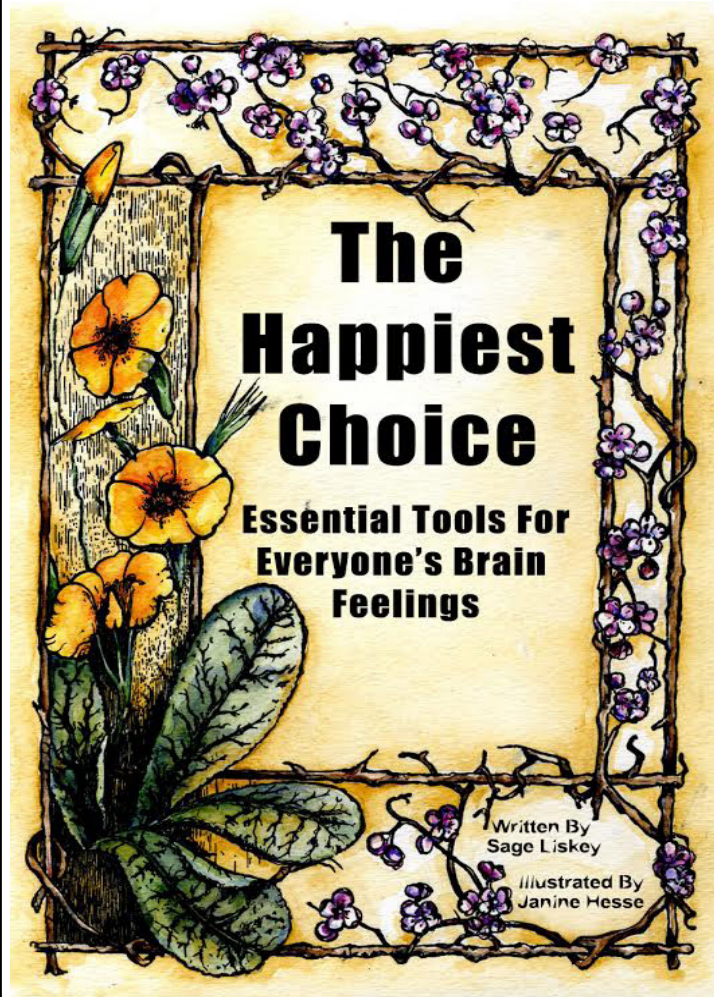
Think about the positive things as well as the possibilities of positive things in your life instead of what you do not or cannot have. This is an “abundance mentality” (Edberg). If you always complain about a certain time of your life, find good things that were happening then, or what good occurred because of that difficult time. You could also consider every new moment of your life an exciting adventure. While it is difficult to alter learned behaviors, you have the most power over how you feel, as well as the ability to deflect or reduce what you don’t want to feel. If you think something will make you feel bad, then just as in a self-fulfilling prophecy, it will most certainly make you feel bad. However, if you maintain an open mind to how an event will impact your emotions, or see the positive possibilities available to you through such an event, the negative feelings will remain for much less time or not be there at all.

Do not confuse this with avoiding feelings—when regrets or tragedies do arise, you fully experience the pain they cause, but then move forward and use them as an opportunity to learn and grow. By embracing an abun-



dance mentality you simply become much more tolerant toward changes, whether people cancel plans on you or a horrible event happens in your life. Every moment is part of your personal story, you may as well work with it.

Train yourself to be more positive by writing a list of good things that happened today, this week, or month, expressing gratitude toward someone you appreciate, repeating one or two positive mantras, praying for or mentally forgive people who have wronged you, using nonviolent communication to resolve conflicts, smiling, practicing mindfulness meditation and living in the present moment, volunteering, or by accepting what you fear the most and sprouting happiness there. Another option is reading *Pronoia Is The Antidote For Paranoia* by Rob Brezsny. *Pronoia* is a wonderfully written, absurdly silly, and yet serious book that helps cultivate an abundance mentality. In one chapter Rob says “Thousands of things go right for you every day, beginning the moment you wake up. Through some magic you don’t fully understand, you’re still breathing and your heart is beating, even though you’ve been unconscious for many hours. The air is a mix of gases that’s just right for your body’s needs, as it was before you fell asleep” (Brezsny 6). There are literally hundreds of questions, thoughts, and poems to wake you up to how amazing you, the world, and universe are!



## The Happiest Choice

For a more comprehensive guide to cultivating happiness and coping with depression, pre-order my book, *The Happiest Choice: Essential Tools For Everyone's Brain Feelings* at <[www.sageliskey.com](http://www.sageliskey.com)>. Due out at the beginning of 2015, *The Happiest Choice* is a comprehensive and yet straight-to-the-point overview of techniques for coping with depression and depressed feelings backed by scientific research or my personal experiences. It includes activities to do, thoughts to think, taking care of your body, medicines to ingest, ways to communicate, and more. The book is written for mothers, children, teenagers, adults, activists, marginalized groups of people, country folk, city dwellers, the religious and spiritual, the introvert and extrovert, and the alternative and mainstream minded. Whoever you are, you can be certain to find something helpful for yourself, friends, and family!



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# An Open Letter to Ann Coulter

10

*The following is a guest post in the form of an open letter from Special Olympics athlete and global messenger John Franklin Stephens to Ann Coulter after this tweet during the Obama/ Romney Presidential debate.*

Dear Ann Coulter,

Come on Ms. Coulter, you aren't dumb, and you aren't shallow. So why are you continually using a word like the R-word as an insult?

I'm a 30 year old man with Down syndrome who has struggled with the public's perception that an intellectual disability means that I am dumb and shallow. I am not either of those things, but I do process information more slowly than the rest of you. In fact it has taken me all day to figure out how to respond to your use of the R-word last night.

I thought first of asking whether you meant to describe the President as someone who was bullied as a child by people like you, but rose above it to find a way to succeed in life as many of my fellow Special Olympians have.

Then I wondered if you meant to describe him as someone who has to struggle to be thoughtful about everything he says, as everyone else races from one snarky sound bite to the next.

Finally, I wondered if you meant to degrade him as someone who is likely to receive bad health care, live in low grade housing with very little income and still manages to see life as a wonderful gift.

Because, Ms. Coulter, that is who we are – and much, much more.

After I saw your tweet, I realized you just wanted to belittle the President by linking him to people like me. You assumed that people would understand and accept that being linked to someone like me is an insult and you assumed you could get away with it and still appear on TV.

I have to wonder if you considered other hateful words but recoiled from the backlash.

Well, Ms. Coulter, you, and society, need to learn that being compared to people like me should be considered a badge of honor.

No one overcomes more than we do and still loves life so much.

Come join us someday at Special Olympics.  
See if you can walk away with your heart unchanged.

A friend you haven't made yet,  
John Franklin Stephens  
Global Messenger  
Special Olympics Virginia





you fucking

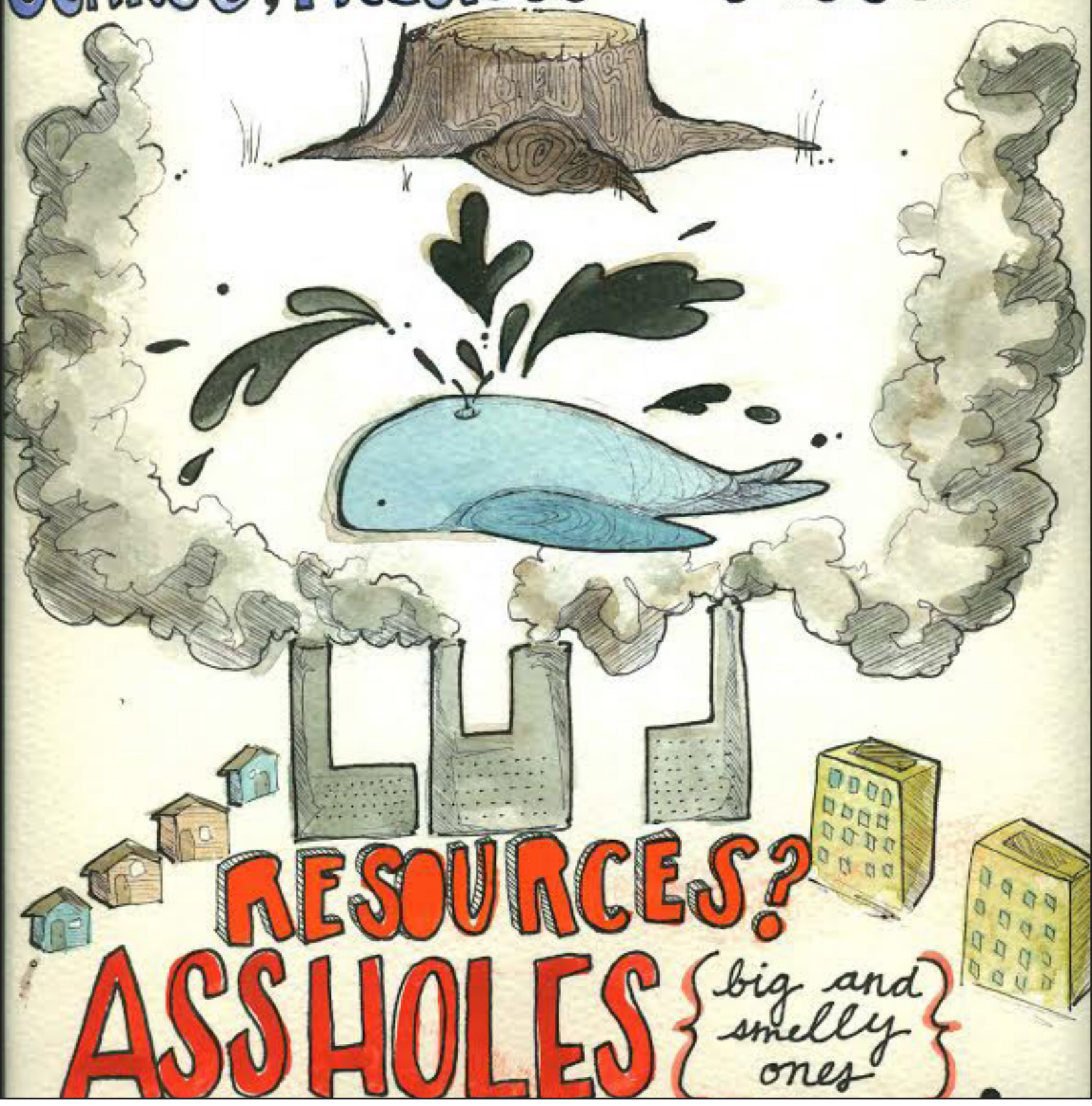


Asshole!

Art by Kelsey



**CORPORATIONS**  
*giving no fucks about* **ABUSING**  
**SCARCE, PRECIOUS** *AND flat out* **STOLEN**





# Let's Talk About the Drunk Punk

---

(an excerpt from the Quiet Riot AKA Shy Sober Kid Zine)

Counterculture is rarely more hypocritical than when it deals with alcohol. Every punk is familiar with images of the 'punk-as-fuck' (drunk-as-fuck) nihilistic dude rocking a spikey jacket, weeks of crust, and of course a 40oz. Maybe you have been that punk. I used to be that punk. Mosh pits, beer, dumpstered donuts, no sleep. In a world of capitalist expectations turning out fit laborers ready for exploitation, what could resist authority more than self-destruction?

Hold up. Since when is the destruction of me antithetical to the multifaceted systems of domination that I was born into? If self-destruction is resistance, then it would follow that my continued well-being is society's top priority. That is clearly not the case. At best, capitalism wants me miserable and downtrodden enough to do what is asked of me, but not quite so miserable and downtrodden that I am not capable of contributing to the labor pool. At worst, the dominant power wants me dead because my transness and craziness pose a threat to the system. In either case, real resistance is protecting myself against the system's violence.

Countercultures, including but not limited to punk, have swallowed up drugs and alcohol as glamorous forms of resistance. What we really swallowed up is a very effective ad campaign. It is just another way to define ourselves by our consumer choices. In exchange for sending our money off to some truly fucked up corporations and war zones, we get to look cool (that is, become a living part of the ad campaign for the next generation of punks) and feel good (that is, make ourselves sick the next day and in the long term).

What I love about punk (and what I appreciate about other countercultures) is that we can define what is cool based on the kinds of everyday resistance we want to see in our community. Punk harnesses the power of our rage and marginal forms of survival, and then turns them into our cool. Something that we fucked up along the way is what to do with the rage and survival strategies. Getting drunk and treating our bodies badly is not saying fuck you to domination, it is saying fuck you to ourselves. Eating veggies and taking care of ourselves is closer to a fuck you to domination - at least it keeps us healthier and functional so the rage can go somewhere useful. Punk is ours and we can define it however we want: let's define it as taking care of ourselves so we can be more of a threat to domination.

Some things can be easier if you are a drunk punk. Maybe it is easier to stick around at shows, parties, even protests because being drunk takes away the awkward and the nervous. Maybe it feels easier to survive and give no fucks because being drunk takes away the fear and pressure. But the things that alcohol takes away, though uncomfortable, can be useful to us. Feeling awkward can be a sign that we need something different. I feel awkward at shows and parties more often since I stopped drinking, but that awkwardness has something to say. Maybe the place I am at is not actually a safe or welcoming space for me and I will have more fun if I just find something else to do, maybe I should bike around to some dumpsters or work on a project instead. Or maybe I will feel better if I buddy up with a supportive friend and I might get closer to that friend in the process.

## Sober as fuck is punk as fuck!

"The ones who made that alcohol ain't my friend,  
but the sad part is I'ma probably do it again...

I used to have a things for Cognac,  
But nowadays I train for combat."

**-Fucked Up by Dead Prez**



Art by Graham



# The best way to treat bedbugs

by Sam Rush

The best way to treat bed bugs is  
to scream uncontrollably until you die.

The best way is to move.  
Get a camper van  
one wrapped in plastic  
brand new and three more for backup  
park one in the heat and one in the cold and rotate them  
while the others cook the rest of you.

Move fast enough to outrun them  
they can't fly  
don't let anything touch the ground  
quickly  
is probably the best way,

best way to cook bed bugs is house fire  
best way to treat bed bugs is diatomaceous earth,

fairy dust powder of ancient sea creature diatom skeletons  
that latch onto the damn things' backs and suck the mois-  
ture out of their itty, bitty, bed bug souls,  
best way to kill bed bugs is to surround them in death  
until they die.

*Best way to treat bed bugs is existentialist deism.*

Remember, we are all part of god's hand face tooth or  
colon and you are feeding the needed masses of his body  
kingdom

all of them tiny feasting sucking pieces of god,  
stop being so greedy with your blood.  
Best remember when god is dead bed bugs make atheists  
go crazy  
covered sleeping in a crawling graveyard.

Best way is probably tea tree oil  
best way on a broke back  
best way for a dirt kid sleeping in odd spots living in truck  
bed floor  
where you got?  
best way if you can't find nothing else cause if there's one  
thing every crunchy travelling truck back twenty-some-  
thing has plenty of  
(other than bed bugs)

It's tea tree oil.

Tea tree oil is made from melaleuca trees.  
When I grew up I watched melaleucas suck dry the ever-  
glades outside my  
3rd grade classroom window  
while my 38 classmates and I swished pink wax-tasting  
fluoride in our mouths  
crowded around an egg timer set on 30 second count  
down  
with all of our mouths full and all of my mind big,

I could almost hear the slurping up through their roots  
the great grand blue herons choking thirst up falling out of  
the sky

Melaleuca trees were brought to south Florida  
in the colonists' pockets  
wanted a strong drinking sucker tree to drain out the  
swamp plaque and make way for their thick white  
stucco bastions  
One hundred years on the grass river is anemic drymouth  
and the trees are just living their own damn lives  
probably never knew they smelled like killing

best way to treat bed bugs (on a budget!) is to douse your-  
self in tea tree oil three times a day  
(this is also the best way to treat scabies, best not to think  
about scabies,  
best thing is you don't have scabies...  
you have bedbugs.)

The best way is with tea tree, see?  
Every room you walk into will smell like minty pungent  
accident destruction or hippie mouthwash

best way to kill bed bugs is to stink of survival  
survival of the fittest  
reproduction of the fittest  
growth of the strongest fittest one  
doing crunches on the floor  
stop doing crunches on the floor  
if you want to kill bedbugs!

Best way to treat bed bugs is to grow the fuck up!  
clean your damn room!  
look at the piles of filth, who, even on a good day,

posture unbelievably as genius  
 flamboyant  
 assinine  
 slurring excuses in a beer can echo

consider whether you have bed bugs or,  
 rather,  
 based on empirical evidence and habitat assessment  
 the bedbugs, in fact, have humans

think of the many squares whose tight assholes you  
 laughed at  
 when they designated clothes for bed wear only!  
 What the fuck are pajamas?  
 when they washed!  
 when they chose not to place their pursed face purses on  
 the floor! *let nothing touch the floor*

the floor is constructed entirely of tiny, tiny, sticky,  
 bed bug eggs  
 you cant see them, because they are your future and  
*you cant see the future*

stupid human  
 human asshole  
 stupid, tasty human asshole,  
 that's disgusting.

Tie your hair back!  
 bag your clothes up!  
 floss your teeth  
 wear sunscreen  
 clench your asshole!

Buy a polo shirt new not used from a sweatshop  
 sweat off the back of a blue heron nation  
 lift your feet up, damn it!  
 meditate on god  
 or death  
 and levitate  
 while you do

and don't let anything touch the ground  
*clench your asshole, asshole*  
 this is how nature changes itself.





# ***FUCK IT.*** (BECAUSE I PROMISED THIS NAME)

BY EMMA RUDDOCK

**I hate your stupid band.**

Your band is a pleather  
Gucci bag  
bought in Chinatown.

The music is a hijacked Kurt Vile,  
bred with knock-off Animal Collective,  
a mutant hipster music child  
that you lead around  
like one of the leash children at the mall.  
Foaming at the mouth.

What I hate most about your  
stupid band  
is that I love your band.

I hate so much that I love it ,  
That I actually pretend to love it  
more than I love it,

so that when you see me dancing  
at the show,  
you will associate my exuberance  
with undue levels of inebriation  
instead of admiration  
the art of manipulation.

I am not exactly a natural.

Later that night,  
H. slapped me across the face.  
No,no, it was really light and kind of affectionate,  
because I had said his music playing silhouette  
was beautiful.

Stages of poetic grieving:  
Tragic poem, tragic sad poem, sad self-realiza-  
tion poem,  
self-realization angry poem, angry ironic poem,  
ironic self-effacing poem, self-effacing humor-  
ous poem,  
humorous humorous poem.  
I do hope this falls somewhere in the latter half.

Anyway, in the spirit of emotional growth  
(or something):  
Non-dogmatic, Non-denomenational, Buddha-  
like, Hypothetically and Dubiously existent  
God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I  
cannot change:

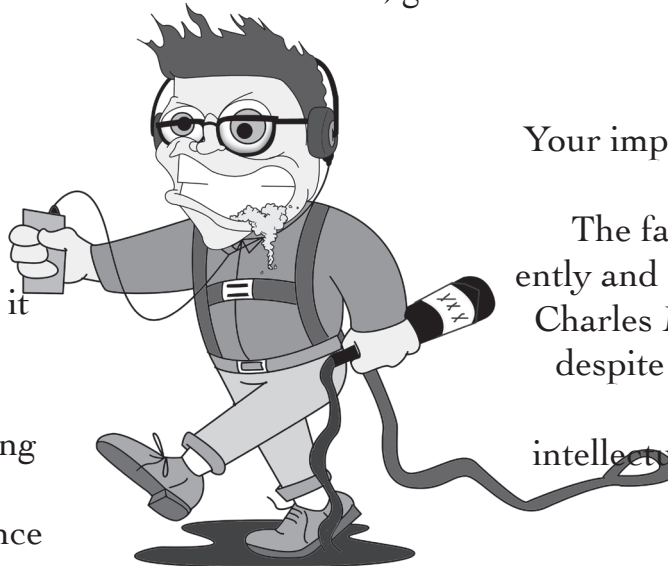
Your impossibly contoured skinny  
jeans

The fact that everything appar-  
ently and inevitably relates back to  
Charles Mingus and Miles Davis,  
despite my efforts to engage in a  
less  
intellectual conversation with you

That we will never again swim in Walden

The courage to change the things I can:  
Wine, lots of wine.  
My policy on befriending men who simultane-  
ously wear paisley and plad  
Wine, more wine.

**And the wisdom to know the difference.**



Art by Graham



## The Privatization(the clear-cutting of Assholes) in Oregon Old Growth Forests: From the Elliott Campaign

Going on a drive through the Oregon coast range to arrive at a hiking trail or perhaps to see the ocean is one of the most gorgeous routes that bless the North West and hell, the entire western side of the continent.

Sadly, as you drive through such beautiful and rare ancient forest, you can't help but notice the giant, brown, decimated hill-sides that look like a foreshadowing scene of the apocalypse.

Unfortunately we have the assholes that make up Big Timber and the State to thank for the utter destruction of the last 3% of Native Forest while also destroying watersheds and ecosystems that can never be replaced.

Especially when "healthy" forest management, to these money hungry assholes, means first a clear cut then planting a monocrop of trees so close together that any diversity of plants and wildlife that once existed will never be able to return.

Oh, but here is where it gets even worse. Our friends in the State Land Board are tired of having to manage the beautiful 93,000-acre Elliott State Forest. Due to successful lawsuits, blockades and tree sits that have cost the state more money than they can make off this ancient forest, they want to wipe their hands clean by potentially PRIVATIZING PUBLIC LAND.

Unless you are Weyerhaeuser (one of the largest private landowners of timberlands) this is bad, not to mention full of corruption. Once public forest land becomes private not only would it be illegal to recreate on this largely healthy untouched forest in ways such as camping, hunting, and hiking, there would also no longer be public process or transparency regarding the forest management.

Environmental protections and endangered species protections will get thrown out the window and local communities will have to deal with the loss of an absolutely irreplaceable resource.

While the official public comment period will likely be over by the time this issue of The Student Insurgent reaches print, I think there are many creative ways you can make your opposition of public land privatization and the decimation of old growth forest heard.

And hell, it wouldn't even hurt to just give them a call and tell them what you think, if that's all you have time for: 503-986-5200. The State Land Board will be making a decision on the future of the Elliott State Forest on the 9th of December in Salem.

Keep a watchful eye and for more info on the Elliott and other forest defense campaigns I heard these folks know what's up: [forestdefense.com](http://forestdefense.com).

long live the weeds and the wilderness yet,  
an anonymous forest nerd



# DEAR

## Dear Asshole,

As if being homeless wasn't bad enough; as if living with the cruel uncertainty of how to afford basic health care wasn't a horrible circumstance before; as if begging for food and money outside a grocery store with shelves stocked up higher than you can reach wasn't already degrading, homelessness is also illegal in many cities across the US. In the past three decades, there has been a strong trend of increasing criminalization of the homeless. There has been a 43% increase in cities that ban sitting or lying down in public places and a 119% increase in the number of cities that ban sleeping in vehicles in the past three years.

With such strong restrictions, 74% of homeless people don't know of a safe and legal place to sleep. Rarely are these actions accompanied with substantial support for the homeless. In Eugene, the homeless outnumber shelter beds 2:1. In Los Angeles the ratio is as high as 4:1. In addition to a 25% increase of bans on begging in public in the past three years, 17 cities have restricted private institutions and individuals from providing food to the homeless. If they are unemployed and don't receive sufficient government support, it is effectively illegal for these people to eat. Not only is it simply unethical to pass laws prohibiting eating and sleeping, it also makes no sense fiscally either. A study conducted in Florida found that annually, a chronically homeless person costs taxpayers \$31,065 on average. Providing them housing, basic healthcare, and job training, however, costs only \$10,051.

So to all the asshole mayors, asshole city council persons, asshole police chiefs, and asshole lobbyists pushing through these asshole bills and enforcing the criminalization of the homeless, look at the facts. There are no grounds, ethically or economically for your assholiness. And to all the homeless and concerned community members, don't put up with the assholocracy. Fight back.

## Dear Asshole,

You stole my moped, you asshole. You stole the moped that has been in my family through three generations now. You stole it right after I finished hauling it all the way from Kansas, and you stole it without the gas tank installed on it. You're an asshole, but even if you're able to empathize with how shitty I feel to have this thing taken away from me, I don't think you will have fully grasped just how deep your assholery runs.

Perhaps allow me to pull back the cheeks and show you the light. I posit that you stealing my families' moped has driven humanity yet deeper into the mire of shitty consumerist society where the only value that we as a people can put on the world around us is preceded by a dollar sign and never backed up with real human connections.

I say your actions have made the world a little bit darker because this moped was a connection to my families' love for each other and all the beautiful moments we've had buzzing around the rolling prairies of Kansas, and you destroyed that. You replaced it with an unusable machine, most likely chopped up and used for parts with no history, and likely no future as well. You've destroyed priceless human connections and replaced them with joyless dollars. But forget for a second about me, my mother and father, my cousin, and my late grandfather who all loved that bike. The best part of all of this is the precedent you set for your own life. When you make it ok to cast aside love and cherished memories for heartless dollars, what are you really moving towards in life? Just a load of crap I'd bet, but I guess that's appropriate, asshole...



# ASSHOLE

Dear Asshole,

It's not just that you are a bro, in the douchiest sense of the term. No. What you are is a bro masquerading as a touchy-feely, free-loving hippie—in short, you are a dishonest bro. And that, in my humble opinion, is the worst kind of bro.

**Brocialism** (n): A brocial and broconomic system characterized by brocial ownership of the means of broduction and bro-operative management of the broconomy as well as a brolitical theory and movement that aims at the establishment of such a system.

*“Bill Clinton’s economic policies are capitalistic, but his Oval Office policy with brunettes defines brocialism.”*

Have you ever seen that YouTube video, “Shit New Age Guys Say?” What I’m getting at here is that you are a tired cliché, and while you may have ‘woo’d me (pun very much intended) with your wishy-washy tea tree oil ways, it’s all too clear now that you would choose balancing your Chi over anything concrete, and I am so fucking over your fluffy-brained bullshit.

You’re this ever-grinning over-confident abstraction, reeking of some combination of Dr. Bronner’s and coconut oil, a gluten-free vegan love affair when I know I deserve a big, fucking steak (you know, that grass-fed, local shit of course). I might even have some kale on the side, but the point is, we can’t all live inside a cliché. Some of us are looking for some substance.

Also, asshole, believing in women’s equality doesn’t mean that you try to sleep with all women equally. You can go shave your back now.

Sincerely, Your Reality Check

Dear Asshole,

I am an empowered woman. I can do things for myself and I enjoy the satisfaction of knowing I carry my own weight and independence. That does not mean you need to pay for me, carry things for me, or act like I am weak because of my sex. I am strong and I am proud so stop treating me like I’m less. There’s a difference between Chivalry and Chauvanist. Get with it or get out.

Regards, Another Asshole

Dear assholes behind the college financial system,

Sorry my required documents aren’t on time. My mom doesn’t know how to do taxes, she’s been a single unemployed mother of 5 her whole life, she’s got bigger fish to fry (literally bigger fish, sturgeon and shit). I just wanted to thank you for taking my financial aid away after being the first of my 17 first cousins to go to college. Good thing my mom finally managed to open that little ma and pop store too! No more livin’ off social security checks anymore, yessirree this is the big time. Now we can definitely afford to all go to college and get the heck out of our piece of shit small town. Small businesses are after all doing great right now. I reckon we’ll never worry about money again; why we’ve recently crossed the poverty line by a whopping 2,000 dollars! Imagine those savings; fuck your financial aid. Worst case I’ll just get myself a loan. Only 6% unsubsidized interest rate, whatever that means. I don’t need financial aid, whoever said you can’t jump classes overnight is telling you a damn lie.

P.S. I hope my sarcasm was painfully obvious. I hate you.



# SNAIL MAIL LETTERS & SUBMISSIONS

## Share Beauty; Make More Than A Dent

While discussing world views and ideals with my conservative friend Stephen, the following question was put forth: How do you expect to change the world? I was asked this after scoffing at Stephen for expressing his belief on how to best bring about social change. He said one had to have faith in the upper classes to trickle down wealth and social changing ideas through policy and example.

"How do YOU expect to change the world, realistically?," he asked.

I conceded that I was not idealistic/delusional enough to believe one man could solve all the world's problems. Especially in this day and age of mass surveillance and instant communication, the best of which is state-run, one cannot organize a revolution that could cure all the destructive ways of society in one fell swoop; not overnight or even in a lifetime.

Maybe such a far-reaching coup has never been possible, not even a century and a half ago at the beginning of the industrial age.

"Okay, if you realize the futility of your beliefs, why do you still hold onto them? Enjoy, without guilt, the luxury technology and easy access affords you," Stephen said.

I replied "I only consider it futile to believe one man can cure every problem in the world. I hold onto my anti-Imperialist-Consum-

*What is truly vital, to all causes, is the next generation.*

erist-capitalist ideals because I hold a very realistic belief that I can at least put a dent in this sphere of social and environmental destruction we have encased the Earth in."

"And how so?" Stephen asked.

"One way is by picking a cause and sticking with it long enough to pass the torch to the next generation. Of course, if I found the time, I would pick multiple causes, but being dedicated to at least one is vital." This is where our conversation ended that day, due to calls of Chow! interrupting.

Later that night, laying down and reviewing the conversation internally, I could not get one particular element of the discussion out of my mind. "The next generation." Proficiency in knowledge of a cause is vital only for making change in that cause. What is truly vital, to all causes, is that next Generation.

Some causes are too big to change in a lifetime, such as reliance on fossil fuels and over indulgence in meats. These are too ingrained in our way of life for immediate change to be expected. Corporate evils are large problems as well, with no immediate solution. There is no romantic opportunity in our era for an over-zealous, militant minded activist to go out and single-handedly destroy an eco-enemy like Monsanto or Halliburton.

To quote *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, "The mark of immaturity is wanting to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of maturity is wanting to live humbly for a cause."

Shooting loggers or hunting down corporate executives will bring no change and will probably get you killed. One must be persistent and steadfast, teaching others through example and education. Giving out info about veganism at festivals, informing people about

the dangers of GMO's and the risks of fracking.

These things matter.

I know, because I used to be a meat-eating, wasteful, selfish prick. I used to make fun of what I thought were pointless activist activities, passing out fliers, abstaining from meat and rallying. It took exposure, over and over again, to affect me. I had to repeatedly see activists living the way they professed. Riding bikes while passing out anti-fracking pamphlets, serving vegan chili at rodeos, wearing clothes from renewable materials such as hemp.

I had to keep seeing these things I didn't think were normal, till they became normal occurrences and I became curious.

Even after my values changed, I took a while to become active and share my passion. A line in the book *Time Must Have A Stop* by Aldous Huxley influenced this decision to delay my involvement. "... That there is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's your own self... You've got to be good before you can do good... Helping with one hand and hurting with the other; that's what the ordinary reformer does."

So I waited till I was practicing before I started to preach, Hypocrisy and heavy-handedness will only serve to alienate those you would wish to enlist for your cause.

The method that can make activists out of anyone without them realizing, is to share beauty.

Beauty you know and love firsthand, appreciation of beauty

connects us all, from old to young. Walk your dog that you rescued from a shelter, and tell people his story as they pet him.

Volunteer at afterschool programs, teaching kids the wonders of growing their own crops and flowers. Spark appreciation through examples people can feel, taste and smell, not just see and hear.

Don't expect flat pieces of paper and bullhorns to do all the talking and convincing. Everyone should be shared with, but an emphasis must be made on the young. They are the ones who will carry and pass on the torch after you and I are dust.

Teach children about the beauty of nature, in all its capacity, the blue of the sky while flying a kite, the simple joys of caring for a loving animal; the wonder of exploring a forest.

The next generation needs the opportunity to develop a foundational appreciation of nature through their own experiences. "I love these woods, because I used to come here with mom." Not just "I care for the woods because it's wrong not to." Foundational and principal appreciation is key.

Take every opportunity you have, to share some beauty. Whether it be your siblings and children, Kids at an afterschool program, or a kid you can act as a big brother or sister to, sharing beauty is the greatest gift you can give to someone and to the lasting cause,

End.

Maybe with a little sharing we can crack this sphere...

-Carlos Nathaniel Gil



It warms my unvarying soul to be holding your latest publication (volume 25, issue 3) in my hand, big props to you all and YES I do agree we must meet injustice with radicalism and if history has proven anything it is that the collective minds have always won so it is imperative that we continue to rebel onward in struggle and solidarity to bring an end to this brutal and inhumane injustice where ever it exists. My uninhibited lust to be liberated teases my imagination daily in the most unexpected and titillating way.

As this passion rises so does my desires for a radically new society and world through revolution where no power, dollar, or system is bigger than the people. Where no more taxpayers dollars are used to finance these hellholes that are quickly becoming known as state sanctioned torture chambers that house hundreds of America's impoverished who are subjected to forceful and unjustifiable rape on a daily basis; that is, raped of our dignity, our humanity, our very right to live free of degradation and scathing criticism that is meant to reduce us to a culture of broken men - on my knees they want to see me, impenetrable darkness I can't see myself a slave to such bigotry. Each day I stand firm behind my strong resistance.

Wisely and with great care I have created a world that accommodates my solitude and strengthens my strength.

No man, no system has moral authority over my thoughts, over my ideas, or my desires to remain entrenched in our revolt that is quietly and peacefully underway here in PBSP-SHU.

As I read your publication I was fascinated by the many stories of strength, courage and resistance. Some even brought about a strange emotional and psychological connection as they correspond so well with my own passionate displeasures, thus triggering my erotic

*Get out of jail or stay and wait for what seems like forever?*

*Which to choose? Get out! Sounds good.*

imagination from the sweetly romantic to the bold and thrilling sensation of liberation that pulsates idly in the erection of my consciousness. Without commitment you cannot have depth in anything, and here with the student insurgent I am finding communion in our protracted struggles and it gives me both sensual and intellectual pleasure to introduce our brave and sexy souls to the revolutionary community, for if we are genuinely passionate about our "purpose" then expressing that passion will electrify the entire movement and collective minds. "Purpose" creates cohesion amid consent, accelerating and sometimes chaotic change.

I am drawn to this open forum that the Student Insurgent has created here. it gives us a radically new way of relating to each other and the environment and I do hope that you find it equally important to strengthen this line of communication because if knowledge is power then lets empower our quest for egalitarianism with information and profound insight. For us here in solitary confinement, it has taken three (3) hunger strikes and slowly but surely effective change is underway.

I just wanted to drop these few lines on the student Insurgent to give you ALL a big shout out and to thank you for sending me a copy of your publication, do keep me in mind when you print your next issue.

Let's Not Major In Minor Things!!!

In Solidarity, "Struggle On"

-Jesse Ceballos

## And Justice For All...

As a poor person you will have NOTHING. Nobody will care about you. The Law will target you and once they get you one time you'll be labeled a criminal FOR LIFE. You'll be kept from finding a decent job etc., the "justice" system will consider you an "undesirable," and it will do everything in their power to lock you up. Once the police get you, you will be thrown in jail and placed under an excessive (and unconstitutional) bond, which you can't afford. You will not be able to afford an attorney, so you will be stuck with a court appointed "lawyer" who is friends with the prosecutor and works in the same office with him.

Unlike rich people, poor people can't call friends or family for help unless it's a collect call on a monitored phone-line. Also the calls are limited to only the city in which you are "detained", or imprisoned. As soon as you are brought into the jail you are strip searched and all your belongings are taken away, including your wallet with your phone numbers. The guards will not let you look at those numbers. So if you don't have every phone number memorized, then too bad. While they deny you these basics they will act as if you are crazy if you get frustrated with their senseless and irrational rules, they will provoke you as much as possible. If you react they will try to get physical and if you try to defend yourself they will not hesitate to hurt you and it's not too much of an overstatement to say that they will, and do, use taserguns on people for target practice. Of course, while they treat detainees like this, the detainee is supposedly constitutionally "innocent until proven guilty in a court of law." But at that point the person hasn't even got a court DATE! Much less been to trial, or proven guilty of anything. I must ask how can there be no outcry at this blatant

violation of Americans Constitutional rights? I'm not advocating that all detainees be released but I am advocating that they should NOT be *punished*. Not until they go to court and are convicted as the Constitution REQUIRES!

Instead people are locked in a jail with rules that are *exactly* the same as the state prison's rules. So the poor person sits in jail under an unconstitutionally excessive bond and is unconstitutionally treated as guilty and punished without having been found guilty. Poor inmates may wish to file a lawsuit but they can't afford it. They can do it in forma pauperis, or "as a poor person" but the \$350 dollar charge still is placed as a lien against that person. Bill Clinton brought in the PLRA- Prisoner Litigation Reform Act. This made the \$350 dollar charge mandatory.

So a poor person gets screwed in every way. After they finally get to court they have two options: 1) accept a plea bargain and get out of jail sooner, or 2) reject the plea "bargain" and go sit in jail for another couple of months or even years awaiting a trial date.

It is much more promising to just take the easy way out and accept the plea bargain and get out of jail- even if you're not guilty. Get out of jail or stay and wait for what seems like forever? Which to choose? Get out! Sounds good. You get out in the short term but most people don't realize that they are receiving a life sentence- they will be "criminals" all of their lives. A lot of times the person could have won their cases and aren't even guilty. Just imagine how many "convicted criminals" (that aren't guilty) are running around out there!

But the system terrorized these people. The system actively threatened them. Not directly but is it not a very real threat when the message conveyed is either take the plea (admit guilt) and we'll let you go, BUT IF YOU DON'T, we're going to throw you back in jail and



you're going to sit there for months, maybe a year(s) until we bring you to trial- so what do you choose? That is called "duress," and by law, any pleading in court is no good if made while under duress or threat. Plead guilty now or do hard time indefinitely! That is a threat! A rich person doesn't have to worry about any of this. They can refuse the plea bargain and go back home. They've made bail at the beginning so the court can't use jail to threaten them. That says a lot about how "fair" and "equal" our court system is. How's that for "justice for ALL"?

-Chris Hughes

Dear Insurgents:

Thanks for thinking of me and continuing to send me SL. Although it appears I did not get issue No.1 for some reason.

I've been meaning to write for quite some time, even though I've not received any acknowledgement of my last two letters - 4/15/13 & 10/12/13 - or the essays and poetry submissions therein. That is why I'm not including any submissions at this time and merely inquiring if you'd be interested in publishing a review of Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* (2009 English translation and the first since the '50's) and/or an essay on the failure of nonviolence and other reformist pathologies to bring about real change.

As for the three issues I did get, you may wish to note, Access, or Access/Keefe, is a corporate monopoly that exploits prisoners through the exclusive sale of inferior products and food. Running an ad for them is akin to poisoning the community well. Don't take my word for it, contact the Human Rights Defense Center ([www.human-rightsdefensecenter.org](http://www.human-rightsdefensecenter.org)) or read Prison Legal News ([info@prisonlegal-news.org](mailto:info@prisonlegal-news.org)) or phone them (561-360-2523).

If you want to get useful information to prisoners, run an ad for the Prison Activist Resource Center (PARC), PO Box 70447, Oakland, CA, 94612 (510-893-4648) and advise prisoners to write and request their free Prisoner Support Directory (24pp), which is updated yearly. Also, prisoners should join their state's CURE chapters or national CURE issue chapters. Thus, it's be cool if you run an ad for

*Goodbye wild, hello banal.*

the newly reactivated CURE LifeLong chapter, for lifers and long-term prisoners, which offers membership, with a quarterly newsletter, for \$3.00. CURE LifeLong, 665 W. Willis St., Ste. B-1, Detroit, MI 58201-1641. Email: [CURELifeLong@gmail.com](mailto:CURELifeLong@gmail.com). N.b., I included contact information so you can verify all the foregoing info as genuine, bearing in mind that many people tend to disinform or misinform under the guise of information, especially when it concerns the prisoner warehousing system.

Case in point, why publish the semi-delusional ravings of the self-anointed "minister" Babayafeu Iyapo-I? And not just once, but twice! Clearly, one of the many driven insane in the SHUs, why not publish the California prisoner hunger strikers' recognized spokesman? Do you not know who they are? I will gladly provide you their names and contact information. Better than some bizarre christian cult leader, who is not housed at Pelican Bay where the hungerstrike leaders are housed. Besides, as anarchists are we not in the business of abolishing God, as opposed to encouraging such delusional beliefs? As

Bakunin pointed out in *God and the State* (1871), "A boss in Heaven is the best excuse for a boss on Earth, therefore if God really did exist, it would be necessary to abolish him." Having read the Bible, I would add that based on God's requirement of child sacrifice, e.g., the Pass-over, etc., we're required to exterminate him if he really did exist.

Any thoughts? Peace Out, war in!

-Rand Gould

We Are Here To Dance Together

And dance we did, until the domestication project known as civilization managed to tame us and remove most of the joy from our lives, rendering us socially and sexually dysfunctional in the relatively short period of 10 to 20 thousand years. Taking us from a veritable Pandora's Box of sexual paradigms to a rigidly scripted exercise in sexual neurosis and dysfunction that dictates among other things, sex is only to occur between a man and a woman and, by the way, don't enjoy it too much. Goodbye wild, hello banal. In other words, no more dancing.

Due to our becoming an almost totally domesticated species, we also seem to have become collectively ashamed of our natural sexual impulses, our wild sexuality. Confused and frustrated, this collective neurosis leads us to behave in ways that take the joy out of sex and life itself, making our learned sexual behavior the antithesis of a fully realized life. Leading, in turn, to a sexual life of accommodation and settling for less than our wild selves would normally demand.

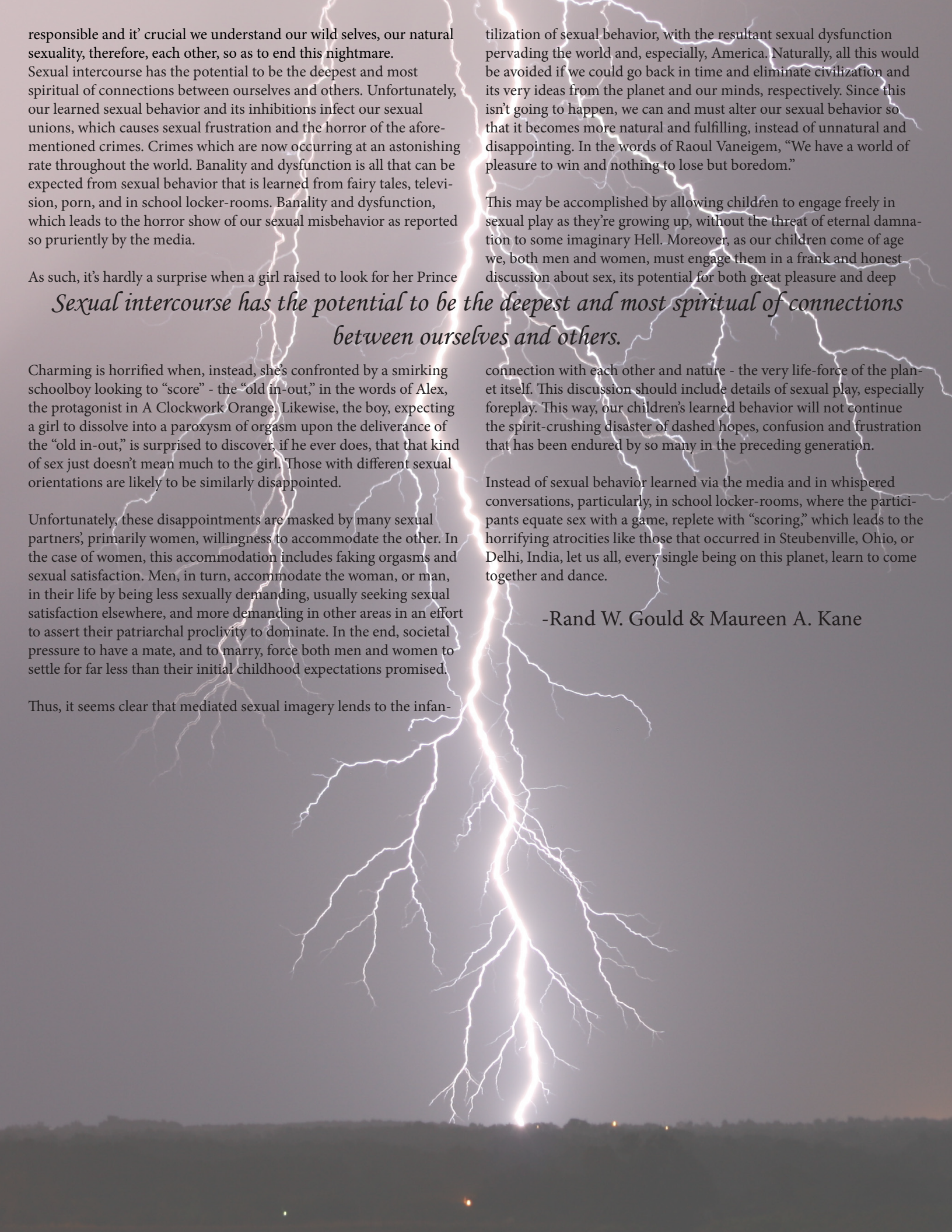
This dysfunction is rooted in the patriarchal religions that dominate our species. The sacred texts of every major religion reek with the hatred and oppression of women and the glorification of war and murder in the name of God or the Gods, from the Hindu and Buddhist Mahabharata to the Jewish Torah, Christian Bible, and Islamic Qu'ran. Despite the layers of beautifully sounding platitudes plastered over the top of these religious dung heaps, the stench remains and projects

itself into the unnatural and mediated spectacle that is the modern world.

Is it any wonder then, that a 16-year-old girl, who passed out at a party, was stripped naked and raped by the stars of a high-school football team in Steubenville, Ohio on August 11, 2012. Or, that a 23-year-old female medical student as kidnapped, tortured, gang-raped, and left for dead on the side of a road by a group of men on a bus near Delhi, India, on December 16, 2012, before eventually dying of her injuries. Who do you think is worse off? The girl who survived, and gets to relive the nightmare for the rest of her life, or the woman who died?

It is our learned sexual behavior, not our wild sexual nature, that leads to this nightmare of sexual dysfunction. What else could possibly cause a man to become sexually excited, and maintain an erection, while raping a terrified woman, young girl or child? One in three women will be beaten or raped in their lifetime, while child rape and molestation has become a veritable pandemic. Ultimately, we are all





responsible and it's crucial we understand our wild selves, our natural sexuality, therefore, each other, so as to end this nightmare. Sexual intercourse has the potential to be the deepest and most spiritual of connections between ourselves and others. Unfortunately, our learned sexual behavior and its inhibitions infect our sexual unions, which causes sexual frustration and the horror of the aforementioned crimes. Crimes which are now occurring at an astonishing rate throughout the world. Banality and dysfunction is all that can be expected from sexual behavior that is learned from fairy tales, television, porn, and in school locker-rooms. Banality and dysfunction, which leads to the horror show of our sexual misbehavior as reported so pruriently by the media.

As such, it's hardly a surprise when a girl raised to look for her Prince

*Sexual intercourse has the potential to be the deepest and most spiritual of connections between ourselves and others.*

Charming is horrified when, instead, she's confronted by a smirking schoolboy looking to "score" - the "old in-out," in the words of Alex, the protagonist in *A Clockwork Orange*. Likewise, the boy, expecting a girl to dissolve into a paroxysm of orgasm upon the deliverance of the "old in-out," is surprised to discover, if he ever does, that that kind of sex just doesn't mean much to the girl. Those with different sexual orientations are likely to be similarly disappointed.

Unfortunately, these disappointments are masked by many sexual partners, primarily women, willingness to accommodate the other. In the case of women, this accommodation includes faking orgasms and sexual satisfaction. Men, in turn, accommodate the woman, or man, in their life by being less sexually demanding, usually seeking sexual satisfaction elsewhere, and more demanding in other areas in an effort to assert their patriarchal proclivity to dominate. In the end, societal pressure to have a mate, and to marry, force both men and women to settle for far less than their initial childhood expectations promised.

Thus, it seems clear that mediated sexual imagery lends to the infan-

tilization of sexual behavior, with the resultant sexual dysfunction pervading the world and, especially, America. Naturally, all this would be avoided if we could go back in time and eliminate civilization and its very ideas from the planet and our minds, respectively. Since this isn't going to happen, we can and must alter our sexual behavior so that it becomes more natural and fulfilling, instead of unnatural and disappointing. In the words of Raoul Vaneigem, "We have a world of pleasure to win and nothing to lose but boredom."

This may be accomplished by allowing children to engage freely in sexual play as they're growing up, without the threat of eternal damnation to some imaginary Hell. Moreover, as our children come of age we, both men and women, must engage them in a frank and honest discussion about sex, its potential for both great pleasure and deep

connection with each other and nature - the very life-force of the planet itself. This discussion should include details of sexual play, especially foreplay. This way, our children's learned behavior will not continue the spirit-crushing disaster of dashed hopes, confusion and frustration that has been endured by so many in the preceding generation.

Instead of sexual behavior learned via the media and in whispered conversations, particularly, in school locker-rooms, where the participants equate sex with a game, replete with "scoring," which leads to the horrifying atrocities like those that occurred in Steubenville, Ohio, or Delhi, India, let us all, every single being on this planet, learn to come together and dance.

-Rand W. Gould & Maureen A. Kane



# Notes on Colonial Atheism

*by John Monroe*



Sam Harris is advocating colonial atheism. His main argument is that in order to assess national security threats, we have to take religious beliefs in and of themselves as primary causal factors of terrorist behaviors.

Despite the ongoing critique of his reduction of terrorist violence to Islamic beliefs, Harris refuses to acknowledge that social and political factors should be given superior analytic weight to religious beliefs, going so far as to claim that rather than a war on terrorism we are fighting a war on Islam. He will not engage arguments that bring up the history of Western interventions and particularly the role of the CIA, DOD and State Department in Middle Eastern affairs. Instead, he attacks a generic weak liberal stance

and then goes on to blithely affirm the worst of US policies. The implications of his stance is a kind of 'convert or die' secularism.

But Harris makes the typical move of playing victim to the predicable onslaught of criticism (much of which is admittedly hysterical and vague). I can only refer to the unedited exchange between Harris and Glenn Greenwald. Harris presents it as if it speaks obviously for his defense. By arguing that we have to link beliefs to behavior and thereby determine who has dangerous intentions, Harris helps to justify and reinforce the current American kill programs, whether carried out by drones, special operations or bombardment. Using the idea of 'signature strikes', these kill programs regularly assassinate Muslims merely for being suspected of potentially being terrorists. The concept of 'patterns of life' identifies particular behaviors that can justify lethal force. One such pattern of life is 'young men congregating' which, yes, has gotten many young Muslim men killed.

There is no requirement for proof linking the target to terrorist groups, nor proof of an intention to carry out a violent act. If Harris' argument is carried into foreign policy, then believing fundamentalist (or potentially any strand of) Islam could be sufficient grounds for termination. A good liberal, Harris takes Western technical and institutional systems as somehow totally distinct from the capitalist system which has colonized the Middle East and the rest of the world. The latter simply disappears, while the former are under attack. The main threat is a virulent irrational belief-system which has infected Muslims. The following quotes are drawn from an article posted on the website of the Rational Response Squad. They have a police badge emblem, and are uniting 'activist atheists':

"A cult of death is forming in the Muslim world — for reasons that are perfectly explicable in terms of the Islamic doctrines of martyrdom and jihad. The truth is that we are not fighting a "war on terror."

We are fighting a pestilential theology and a longing for paradise...

"In their analyses of U.S. and Israeli foreign policy, liberals can be relied on to overlook the most basic moral distinctions. For instance, they ignore the fact that Muslims intentionally murder non-combatants, while we and the Israelis (as a rule) seek to avoid doing so. Muslims routinely use human shields, and this accounts for much of the collateral damage we and the Israelis cause; the political discourse throughout much of the Muslim world, especially with respect to Jews, is explicitly and unabashedly genocidal...

"Unless liberals realize that there are tens of millions of people in the Muslim world who are far scarier than Dick Cheney, they will be unable to protect civilization from its genuine enemies." "Head-in-the-sand liberals" <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2004/dec/1/20041201-090801-2582r/#ixzz3G4cmnycl>

Even recognizing the reactionary danger of terrorist organizations and fundamentalist Islamic regimes, Harris is falsely positioning these groups as the most important enemy of the collective, secular, liberal 'we'. With this he passes off more fundamental antagonisms.

By presenting a 'hard-on-terror' liberalism, Harris also continually obfuscates the possibility of radical liberation politics. In 'Mired in a religious war,' published by the Washington Times, Harris explicitly avows the 'war to better the life of the Iraqi people' narrative. He also argues that the war on terror is not about taking vengeance for 9/11, but preventing more terrorist attacks from happening. This can be done by attacking those who intend to attack 'us'. For Harris, his allies and followers, there is a fundamental schism between rational and irrational beliefs. Irrational religious and political doctrines threatens liberal society from both without and within. It is ultimately the Islamic threat that poses the gravest danger to the liberal world, and Harris goes so far as to say that the American religious right and European fascist groups offer the most honest assessment of this threat.

Of course this avoids the problem that a relatively small group of people in both sides of the conflict are engaged in producing terrorism: on one side, militaries, intelligence agencies, corporate contractors, and on the other side, terrorist groups and small hegemonic families. Through all of this, the network of global capital is pervasive and continues to sink in its fangs. And as we already know, it is only by building relations of solidarity and support with emancipatory forces throughout the theater of the War on Terror, while challenging militarism at home, that terrorism can be ended. Sam Harris represents one of the many ways in which we are tempted to forget this.





# The door opens. The temperature drops.

24

*after Bon Iver*

*You hold a book in your hands:*

*oven-baked pages. home-stitched spine.*

*handwritten print. You daft songbird,  
if you didn't know a sharp confession  
when you held it, played it yourself,  
you didn't deserve one anyway.*

*The door opens. There's a quartet  
on my back porch in Maine in March.  
One violin croons you are a catch, Miss  
while another sends me bad poems  
via text message. You are 90 miles away,  
and for a moment I hope you hear me  
harmonize with another man's strings,  
you asinine stripling. My knees grow cold  
as the first violin wakes, bones sharp in my bed.*

*The temperature drops. I open my eyes  
and discover his neck is not yours  
though the night had told me so.*

*Imagine my heartbreak- an arpeggio  
sang for me, forever ago. The door opens.  
I am seventeen and you're singing my name,  
so apropos. The temperature drops.*

*I find another lover and sing to him  
the futile songs you played for me.  
In the middle of the night I wake  
spewing hymns and hoping you feel them,  
though I tell my friends your existence is trivial.*

*In another reality I come to you pure as Eden  
with a cross around my neck. You think of me  
as a pretty enough addition to your Christian  
mother's dining room table. She pairs me  
with her finest china and tells you I remind her  
of Mary: immaculate. decorative. The temperature  
rises when my mouth opens. The door closes.*

*Your voice becomes  
all my strings*

*break.*

*\*forthcoming publication in Germ Magazine*

INTRODUCING  
-THE-



**R**  
Radical

**O**

Organizing

**A**

Activism

**R**

**Radical Organizing and Activism Resource Center**  
(Formerly the Survival Center)

Providing opportunity, support, and space for students and the surrounding community to educate themselves and each other on the social and environmental justice issues that combat our world.

ROAR works to empower and aid the voices of our community.

Meetings at 6:30pm, Wednesdays  
in the ROAR Center at EMU South  
[roarcenter@gmail.com](mailto:roarcenter@gmail.com)

**Resource**

CENTER



# RADICAL CLASSIFIEDS

caglecartoons.com

FLORIDA TODAY © 2006

WIT  
WEEK  
J. Montague/Howard Barnett Co.

## STUDENT GROUPS

### Student Insurgent

Meetings Mondays at 8 in the new Mac Court office.

studentinsurgent@gmail.com

### ROAR Center (formerly the Survival Center)

Meetings: Wednesday at 6:30 in the new

Mac Court office

### Multicultural Center

Meetings 3pm, Friday Multicultural Center

uoregonmcc@gmail.com

### S.W.A.T.: Sexual Wellness Advocacy Team

swat@uoregon.edu or apply at swat.uoregon.edu

### Students for Choice

s4choice@uoregon.edu

### Women's Center

womenctr@uoregon.edu open 9-5 Monday through Friday!

### Sappho: Queer Women's Group

Meetings Thursdays at 5pm in the Women's Center

### Native American Student Union

Meetings on Thursdays at 5:30 in the Many Nations Longhouse

asuonasu@gladstone.uoregon.edu

### Climate Justice League

Meetings every Tuesday @ 6:00pm in Anstett 195 climatejusticeleague@gmail.com

### Black Student Union

Meetings Every Wednesday 6pm at the Mills International Center located in the EMU

### SLAP! Student Labor Action Project

Meetings at 6pm in the ROAR Center

uoslap@gmail.com

## PRISONER RESOURCES

Send an SASE to receive magazines from a list of 200 options.

Alice S. Grant PO box 28812 Greenfield WI 53228-0812

### The Innocence Project

Legal help for innocent, DNA evidence cases only response in 2-3 weeks!

100 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, NY 10011

### Books sold by mail!

100 page catalogue available.

Edward R. Hamilton PO box 15, Falls Village, CT 06031-0015

### Prison Art Inc.

Sells prisoner arts and crafts online for you!

PO box: 69586, Seattle WA 98168-9586

### Nasco Arts and Crafts

Free Catalogue for mail orders!

PO box 901, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

### Pen Pal Connection

Provides penpal services, books and gifts, write to

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Huerto de la Familia

Garden work parties in the spring, summer and fall!

To find out how to get involved, visit huertodelafamilia.org/volunteer

### Farm to School

Interested in volunteering?

Contact Molly Bullock @ 541-344-4329

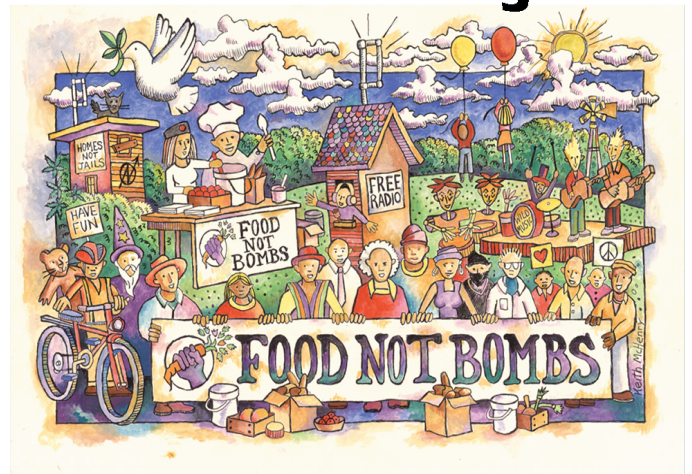
School Garden Project of Lane County

Serving 36 schools locally.



"THEY SAY THEY'RE BUILDING A WALL BECAUSE TOO MANY OF US ENTER ILLEGALLY AND WON'T LEARN THEIR LANGUAGE OR ASSIMILATE INTO THEIR CULTURE..."

## Food is a Right NOT a Privilege



Food Not Bombs (FNB) is an international group of loosely knit, independent collectives who serve free vegan meals to others.

In the midst of corporate control and consumerist convenience, we are left with a surplus of foodstuffs and waste.

All the while people go hungry.

To challenge this far too common reality, FNB cooks up vegan meals out of donated and salvaged foods and serve it to hungry people for free.

### Volunteer for Eugene FNB:

Cooking—12-2pm Fridays

Lorax Manner 1648

Alder Street, Eugene OR

Serving—2:30-4:30pm

Downtown Park 8th and Oak

eugenefoodnotbombs@gmail.com

Contact [info@school-gardenproject](mailto:info@school-gardenproject) to learn about how to get involved!

### Cascadia Forest Defenders

Meetings on Mondays at 5:30 in the Eugene Grower's market.

### The Grove

Ask about work parties and garden plots for students.

[uodiblecampus@gmail.com](mailto:uodiblecampus@gmail.com)

### Urban Farm

Work parties at the urban farm every Saturday at 10:30! All are welcome!



### Where do you see yourself?

Here at the SCA we share the responsibility of ownership in order to maintain our houses.

We work together in cooperation to make an affordable, sustainable and safer space for everyone.

Thinking of each other, the future, and the earth, we value good food, self-reflection, and creating our own space.

If you can see yourself in cooperative living come by for a tour and stay for dinner 6pm Monday-Friday.

1648 Alder Street, Eugene OR 97401

[scaeugene.org](http://scaeugene.org) • 541-683-1112

NOW ACCEPTING MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Open mics every Tuesday @ the Campbell Club from 7 to 11.

All forms of creative expression are welcome.

1670 Alder Street Eugene OR

## SO, YOU WANT TO BE AN INSURGENT?

We are a publication at the University of Oregon. We produce magazines, and other forms of news and educational propaganda. We are a bunch of badassess who do shit our way.

If you are an artist, writer, designer, or just want to see what we're about, visit us at the Survival Center (new location in MacArthur Court), call us, e-mail us, find us on Facebook, or contact us however you please.

If you are incarcerated, your submissions of writing, poetry, and art, are welcome! We love to hear from you. If you are seeking a penpal, please let us know if we can print your address in our publication. We don't want to assume.

Finally, the Student Insurgent is provided free of charge for University of Oregon students and faculty, and all incarcerated people. Otherwise, submissions are \$15/year. Sharing is caring.

Student Insurgent  
EMU Suite One, University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403-1228  
541-346-3716  
[studentinsurgent@gmail.com](mailto:studentinsurgent@gmail.com)



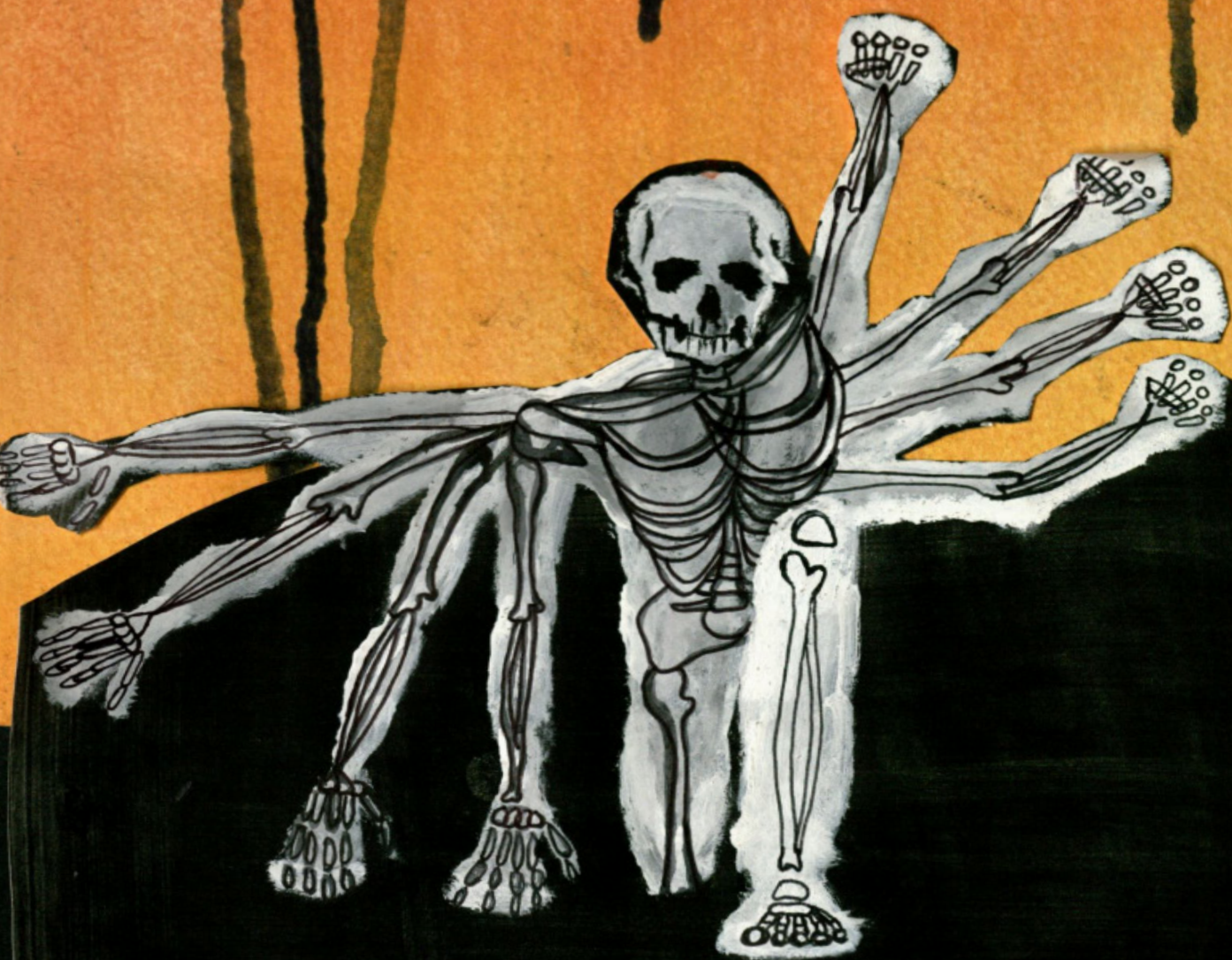
# SAFE RIDE 346-RIDE ext. 2

Fall/Winter Hours  
Sun-Thu: 6pm-12am  
Fri-Sat: 6pm-2am

Spring Hours  
Sun-Thu: 7pm-12am  
Fri-Sat: 7pm-2am

Summer Hours  
Sun-Thu: 9pm-12am  
Fri-Sat: 9pm-2am





THE Student Insurgent  
Meetings Monday @ 8 p.m.  
in MacArthur Court  
Submit works to  
[Studentinsurgent@gmail.com](mailto:Studentinsurgent@gmail.com)

Looking for Artists,  
Poets, Writers and  
NEW Members